



1655

Dkt. 58077/JPW/AJM/HA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Anna Marie Pyle and Eckhard Jankowsky
Serial No.: 09/492,954 Examiner: A. Chakrabarti
Filed : January 27, 2000 Group Art Unit: 1655
For : ASSAYS FOR EVALUATING THE FUNCTION OF RNA
HELICASES

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
April 10, 2003

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

APR 16 2003

Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO
JANUARY 10, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

This Communication is filed in response to the January 10, 2003 Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the January 10, 2003 Office Action is due on April 10, 2003. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the subject application. No claims have been added, canceled or amended herein. Thus, claims 1-8 are still pending and under examination.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Shuman (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, November 1992) in view of Bjornson et al. (Biochemistry, December 1994).

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, applicants respectfully traverse, and maintain that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.